

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 186432

14

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 LAB-04 COME-00 SIL-01

EUR-12 ARA-06 SIG-01 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

OIC-02 AID-05 FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /102 R

DRAFTED BY IO/LAB:TWINDMULLER:OF

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

LABOR:DHOROWITZ(SUBSTANCE)

COMMERCE:RUPTON(SUBSTANCE)

S/IL:DGOOD(SUBSTANCE)

EUR:DGOOTT(SUBSTANCE)

EA:DHARRIS(SUBSTANCE)

NEA:SHOLLY SUBS

ARA:JO'GRADY(SUBSTANCE)

AF:LSLEZAK SUBS

----- 040626

R 280136Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

XMT AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORG

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF ILO CONFERENCES

REF: GENEVA 4905, STATE 168519

1. REFTELS DESCRIBED RECENT ILO CONFERENCES HELD IN GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 186432

IN MAY-JUNE. FOLLOWING LISTS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS

EACH CONFERENCE, IN CONTEXT SPECIAL EFFORT US HAS BEEN MAKING IN ILO SINCE SENDING LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW (NOVEMBER 6, 1975). POSTS MAY DRAW ON THIS ASSESSMENT IN DISCUSSING ILO AFFAIRS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT, BUT SHOULD STRESS THAT NO RPT NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED ON WITHDRAWING OR STAYING IN, SINCE WE ARE LESS THAN HALFWAY THROUGH TWO-YEAR NOTICE PERIOD. US IS CONTINUING ITS OWN EFFORT AND HOPES OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH VALUE ILO WILL DO LIKEWISE.

2. GOVERNING BODY (GB):

A) POSITIVE: INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES (INCLUDING SOME OF THEIR WORKER AND EMPLOYER REPS) UNITED IN SPEAKING AND VOTING AGAINST EFFORT TO HAVE GB AMEND STANDING ORDERS OF WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE (WEC) TO GRANT OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO. THIS SUPPORT WAS MAINTAINED DURING TWO

SUBSEQUENT VOTES (ON WHETHER TO REOPEN THE ISSUE AFTER IT HAD BEEN DEFEATED; AND ON FINAL VOTE WHICH LED TO ADMISSION OF PLO).

B) NEGATIVE: IN THE END, WE LOST ON THE PLO ISSUE, AND IN SO DOING, SAW THE GB, WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE LEAST POLITICIZED AND MOST RESPONSIBLE BODY OF THE ILO, GIVE IN TO POLITICAL PRESSURE.

3. WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE: POSITIVE: ONCE THE PLO ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED, NO MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES AROSE (SUCH AS ANTICIPATED RESOLUTION ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM) UNTIL THE LAST FEW HOURS WHEN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT WAS MADE BY SOVIETS AND SOME THIRD WORLD REPS TO ALTER FINAL DRAFT. ALSO, FINAL DOCUMENT CONTAINS "CONCLUSIONS" RATHER THAN RECOMMENDATIONS, AND HAS BEEN SENT TO GB FOR APPROVAL, RATHER THAN ACCEPTED AS ILO POLICY. ALTHOUGH THE US HAS SOME RESERVATIONS WITH THE DOCUMENT, IT IS GENERALLY ONE WE CAN LIVE WITH. INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND MODERATE THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES HELPED ACHIEVE THESE RESULTS.

NEGATIVE: TUNISIAN CHAIRMAN (WHO WE EXPECTED TO TAKE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 186432

MODERATE APPROACH) GAVE IN TO SOVIET AND THIRD WORLD PRESSURE AND MADE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO INTRODUCE THEIR CHANGES INTO FINAL DOCUMENT (DESPITE PRIOR DECISION OF WEC COMMITTEE THAT NO CHANGES WOULD BE ACCEPTED) AND CLAIMED HE HAD SUPPORT OF WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS FOR THIS EFFORT WHICH DID NOT MATERIALIZE. ALSO, THERE WERE INCREASING SIGNS THAT THE GROUP OF 77 IS TRYING TO ACT AS A BLOC IN THE ILO, WHERE PREVIOUSLY ONLY REGIONAL COALITIONS HAVE

BEEN EVIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A "G-77 DRAFT" OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS PRESENTED, THUS INTRODUCING A NORTH-SOUTH POLITICAL ISSUE.

4. ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE: POSITIVE: POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AT LAST MINUTE BY SEVERAL COMMUNIST UNIONS WERE NOT PROCESSED BUT INSTEAD WERE REFERRED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNING BODY "FOR ITS INFORMATION". HANDLING OF AGENDA ITEMS WAS SATISFACTORY, INCLUDING HOLDING LINE ON BUDGET INCREASES, AND STATEMENT IN COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS' REPORT CRITICIZING USSR ON FORCED LABOR. AGAIN, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SUPPORTED US GOALS.

NEGATIVE: CONFERENCE PRESIDENT O'LEARY GAVE IN TO PRESSURE ON PLO ISSUE AND ASKED GB TO REOPEN QUESTION AFTER INITIAL GB VOTE TO REJECT OBSERVER STATUS. ALSO, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS FAILED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR INTENT TO CITE CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT INSTEAD PLACED CRITICISM IN "APPENDIX"

TO REPORT. FINALLY, CONFERENCE WAS A-TYPICAL BECAUSE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT WAS OMITTED AND BECAUSE RESOLUTIONS WERE NOT INTRODUCED AND HANDLED IN THE USUAL WAY. IN PAST, MOST POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS OCCURRED DURING DEBATE ON DG REPORT AND WITH NO REPORT AND NO RESOLUTIONS AT THIS CONFERENCE, NO MAJOR POLITICAL CONFRONTATION OCCURRED WHERE DEGREE OF SUPPORT TO US GOALS COULD BE DEMONSTRATED.

5. IN SUMMARY, ALL THREE BODIES WERE SUBJECT TO SOME POLITICIZATION AND ALL THREE VIOLATED OR ATTEMPTED TO VIOLATE PROCEDURES. ALSO ILO OFFICE (SECRETARIAT) OFFICIALS GAVE INTO POLITICAL PRESSURES AND WORKED MUCH TOO ACTIVELY TO SUGGEST WAYS IN WHICH LDC'S COULD BEND PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 186432

CEDURES AND RULES TO REACH THEIR OBJECTIVES, CLEARLY ANTAGONISTIC TO US GOALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST AGENDA ITEMS WERE HANDLED SATISFACTORILY, AND NON-COMMUNIST CHAIRMEN WERE ELECTED, WHICH WAS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF US. GENERALLY, USSR APPEARED TO BE TRYING TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS. ALSO, INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES AND SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SUPPORTED US POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES.

6. CONCLUSION: THERE WERE SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCES. HOWEVER, BOTH CONFERENCES REVEALED CONTINUING TENDENCY FOR POLITICIZATION AND ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE DUE PROCESS, BOTH OF WHICH WERE CITED AS MATTER OF CONCERN IN LETTER OF INTENT. ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS MADE BY US IN PAST MONTHS HAVE HAD SOME IMPACT, SERIOUS PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN, AND NEED FOR

CONTINUED EFFORT IS EVIDENT. NOT CLEAR IF SUPPORT US IS GETTING IS TEMPORARY (RESULT OF LETTER OF INTENT) OR WHETHER IT REFLECTS PERMANENT COMMITMENT BY SOME COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN REFORM EFFORTS. ALSO, RECENT CONFERENCES - ESPECIALLY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - HAD FEW MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES (OTHER THAN PLO) WHERE DEGREE OF COMMITMENT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED; MOST ISSUES WERE PROCEDURAL. JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE MAY BE A BETTER TEST.

FYI: DEPT PLANNING FURTHER SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO SUPPLEMENT TALKS ALREADY CARRIED OUT BY SPECIAL ENVOY SILBERMAN IN MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND BY US GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE HOROWITZ IN GENEVA. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE PROPOSED OVER THE NEXT TEN MONTHS, WITH BOTH INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND SEVERAL CAREFULLY SELECTED LDC'S SEPARATE TELEGRAM WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS. END FYI KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE186432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWINDMULLER:OF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0430
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760713/aaaaakwj.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 4905, 76 STATE 168519
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSESSMENT OF ILO CONFERENCES
TAGS: PORG, OCON, ILO
To: ALL POSTS MELBOURNE JOHANNESBURG MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006